

The SAT Essay

Lesson Essential Question:
How can I respond effectively to an SAT essay prompt?

Agenda

- Practice Prompt Reflection
- Approaching the Essay
- Evaluation of Essays
 - Example Essays
 - Applying the Rubric
- Student Lesson Summary
- In-Class Practice Essay

Practice Prompt Review

- For today's class, you wrote a practice response to an SAT prompt.
- Take out your essay.
- On the given reflection sheet, respond to the questions about writing your practice essay.
 - Where?
 - Distractions?
 - Timing?
 - First steps?
 - Argument/Point of View?
 - Examples?

Approaching the Essay

- Understand the Prompt
- Generate Ideas
- Consider Both Sides
- Plan Your Response

Directions:

- Turn over your reflection questions.
- Divide your paper into four sections.

Taking Notes:

Understanding the Prompt	Generating Ideas
Considering Points of View	Planning Your Response

Understanding the Prompt: Identifying Key Words

- What are key words and phrases?
 - In the prompt:
 - Key words reflect the most important ideas
 - Often represent the point or points of view

On the back of your reflection sheet: What are the key words and phrases in the prompt you used over the weekend?

Assignment: Do memories hinder or help people in their effort to learn from the past and succeed in the present?

1. List the key words from the prompt.
2. Rearrange the key words and phrases to summarize the ideas of the prompt. Fill in or substitute your own words to make it clearer.

Understanding the Prompt: Key Word Example

- My key words & phrases: success, forget the past, memories, integrate past and present.

Some think you must **forget the past** to gain **success**. Others use **memories** to bring the **past and present** together in order to succeed.

What do you think?

Take a moment and develop a tentative point of view.

Make a quick note of your point of view *on the back of your reflection sheet*.

Generating Ideas: Using Key Words to Brainstorm



Considering Points of View: Using Key Words

- What do the key words signal in an assignment question?
 - A subject (from the prompt)
 - And contrasting ideas (regarding the subject)
- What are the key words or phrases in this assignment question? What are the different ideas?
- Create a two column chart *on the back of your reflection questions*.

<p>How do memories hinder people from learning and succeeding?</p> <p>Ex. 1: In William Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily," Emily Grierson goes crazy and dies alone because she cannot move past her memories.</p> <p>Ex. 2: I once really hurt myself and a stranger while skiing, and I have been scared to go on difficult runs ever since!</p> <p>Ex. 3:</p>	<p>How do memories help people learn and succeed?</p> <p>Ex. 1: I once false-started in a high-stakes swim meet and was disqualified. Now, I make sure the buzzer goes off first!</p> <p>Ex. 2: In J.K. Rowling's <i>Harry Potter</i> series, a magical memory-holding device called a pensieve helps Harry and Dumbledore defeat evil!</p> <p>Ex. 3:</p>
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Planning Your Response: Connect the Dots

- How do the examples you just came up with affect the point of view you developed earlier?
- Do you need to alter it?
- *On the back of your reflection sheet*, state your point of view as a sentence (thesis).

Sample P.O.V./argument: In order to succeed, one must learn from his or her memories without letting them trap him or her in the past.

Plan Your Response: Outlining

- So by this point you should have a good idea of your **point of view** and **examples**
- So what is your response going to look like?
 - Introduction
 - Example 1
 - Example 2
 - Conclusion

Planning Your Response: Body Paragraphs

How can you quickly organize an effective body paragraph?

M.E.A.L.

M: Message / Main idea (aka topic sentence)

E: Example

A: Analysis (explain your example)

L: Link (to your argument)

Planning Your Response: Example M.E.A.L. Paragraph

Message: Memories can negatively affect an individual's ability to succeed if they allow the past to overpower the present.

Example: In William Faulkner's short story, "A Rose for Emily," Emily Grierson becomes a recluse after being apparently jilted by her lover. The audience learns that Emily actually killed him as revenge, and kept his body in her house until she herself passed away.

Analysis: Emily's inability to move past his rejection of her led her to commit homicide and lose her mind as a result.

Link: She never got over the love and pain she experienced, and could never function in society as a result.

Evaluating the SAT Essay

- How do they evaluate the response?
- One of these responses received a three and one received a six.
- Read through both examples and decide which essay would earn each score on the SAT rubric.
- Look for the following:
 - The point of view / argument
 - Examples (different types)
 - Explanation of the examples

Your turn!

- Find a partner that you do not sit with currently and switch responses.
- Read through the essay quickly.
- Look for the point of view and supporting examples.
- Do the examples support the point of view?
- Does the writer explain the examples and link them to the argument?
- Score the essay using the rubric and write one sentence explanation.

SOOO, Remember:

- Understand the Prompt
- Generate Ideas
- Consider Both Sides
- Plan Your Response
- Proofread
- Watch Your Time
- Practice makes Perfect ©

Lesson Summary: 3, 2, 1

- 3 things you learned
- 2 ways you could improve your practice essay
- 1 question

Place your lesson summary response on the corner of your desk.

We will now practice the SAT Essay with a new prompt.